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Identical letters dated 4 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 3 July 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing wanton aggression by United States and British aircraft in the unlawful no-flight zones and to the fact that in the period from 24 to 30 June 2000 they carried out 126 sorties, 84 of them from Saudi Arabia, 10 from Kuwait and 32 from Turkey, in which they targeted civilian and services-related installations, killing one Iraqi woman and injuring three other civilians. He goes on to call for your intervention with a view to halting such aggression, and he affirms Iraq's inalienable right to defend its territorial integrity and to seek compensation for the damage done by this aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 4 July 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq. They carried out 126 sorties in the period from 24 to 30 June 2000, 84 of them from Saudi Arabia, 10 from Kuwait and 32 from Turkey, as shown hereunder. One Iraqi woman was killed and three other civilians were injured in these incidents.

1. In the northern region 32 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1000 hours on 28 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Aqrah, Rawanduz, Dokan dam, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1230 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1100 hours on 29 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul, Rawanduz, Aqrah, Zakho and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1235 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 94 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 0800 hours on 25 June 2000, United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 16 missions with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace, and they overflew the Lasaf, Salman, Samawah, Ukhaydir South, Nasiriyah, Shinafiyah and Jalibah areas. They attacked a civilian services-related installation in Hamzah village, which is located in the Rifa'i area of Nasiriyah Governorate, wounding two women residents. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0925 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 0935 hours on 26 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Najaf, Basrah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Lasaf, Shinafiyah, Ashbajah, Nukhayb, Taqtaqanah, Qal'at Sukkar, Jalibah and Ar'ar areas.

Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1200 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1103 hours on 27 June 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace, and they overflew the Samawah, Shinafiyah, Najaf South, Jalibah, Lasaf, Rumaythah, Diwaniyah, Hayy, Shatrah, Qal'at Sukkar and Taqtaqanah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1210 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0925 hours on 28 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 18 missions, 14 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Basrah, Qurnah, Ashbajah, Lasaf, Nukhayb, Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, Najaf and Shinafiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1035 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0800 hours on 29 June 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Najaf, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Samawah, Lasaf, Afak, Hashimiyah, Kut, Razzazah, Qal'at Salih, Taqtaqanah, Ashbajah, Hayy and Shinafiyah areas. These aircraft attacked a civilian services-related installation, killing one woman and injuring another resident. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0905 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against Iraqi civilian installations, urges the Security Council to perform the duties assigned to it

for the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent, sovereign State.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq